

Always Good, Edna Blez And Rives Matthews Excel Their Own Lively Record With Their Contrasting Notes On This Week's Editorial Page. Read Their Pieces Today.

THE DALLAS POST

[More Than A Newspaper, A Community Institution]

In Editorial Content, As In Its "Neo-Dynamic" Makeup, The Post Is Attuned Precisely To The Times, Streamlined For The Enjoyment Of Its Discriminating Audience.

Vol. 49

THE DALLAS POST, FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1939

No. 13

POST SCRIPTS

EPH DONATES McCOY A NAVY

There are noises which never come out in the day, but rest so they can keep lonely people company at night. They float on the blackness of midnight, assuring those who are still awake that this natural phenomena of nightfall is nothing to be alarmed about because, come dawn, the world will be back again to resume its happy and hysterical course.

We were toying with such fussy philosophies early the other morning as we splashed sleepily homeward through a fine, cold drizzle. The rain was spreading silvery patterns across the sleek pavement. The windows were black patches, streaked with tiny rivers. Main Street stretched ahead of us, black, lifeless, abandoned . . . but not silent.

Add Woolbert's sign was creaking dolefully in the wind. Across the street, Danny Richards' awning was cracking like a .22 rifle. There was a mysterious gurgle we couldn't identify until we remembered that Toby's Creek, which you seldom remember in the winter, slips under the street near the bank building. Swollen by the Spring thaw and the rain, the stream was chuckling merrily, adding its bit to the symphony.

There was another noise. It sounded like the clanking of an anchor chain but that, of course, was ridiculous. We stopped and looked about and then our eyes popped with surprise. There, in Toby's Creek, slowly swinging around toward the bank, was a graceful, three-masted schooner, its bare spars thrust toward the low-hanging clouds, its clean white lines soft in the mist floating up from the water.

We were just getting ready to make a disorganized retreat up Lake Street when a lusty voice split the air. "Ahoy!" someone shouted. We thought we recognized the voice so we waited, still ready to get started on a split-second's notice. "Hey," the voice called again, abandoning the seafaring vernacular. Then we saw a figure vault over the patch of water between ship and shore and come running toward us. We picked up a stone and slipped behind a gasoline pump. "Come on out, son," the figure called. "It's me, Eph . . . Eph McCoy!"

And, sure enough, it was. He was still wearing his buckskin leggings and his weather-worn jerkin, but he had replaced his battered old fur cap with an admiral's plumed hat, worn crosswise. Eph's grizzled, grinning visage peered out from under the gaudy headgear.

"What in the name of . . ." we began, but Eph grabbed us by the arm and propelled us toward the spot where his ship was anchored. "Tidy craft, lad, ain't she?" he asked, as his eyes moved lovingly over the ship's lines.

Heretofore we had not encountered the salty phase of Eph's career. We had known him only as an ex-revolutionary soldier, an Indian fighter and as the man who, sometime in the late 1700's built the first cabin in what is now Dallas. His sudden acquisition of a schooner floored us. We conveyed as much to him. Eph looked injured.

"Didn't I ever tell you I was with Capt. John Paul Jones on the Bon Homme Richard in '79?" Eph asked. We said no, he never had. We were getting chilled through. "Do you mind if we go home?" we asked Eph. He ignored us.

"She was nothing more than drift-wood, and she had four feet of water in the hold," Eph said, and we noticed that the rain was slanting right through his shadowy figure. "We only had three guns and I was on one of them. 'Have you struck?' hollers the captain of the Serapis. 'I have not yet begun to fight,' Captain Jones yells back, and then we boarded the Serapis and licked 'em, and just in time, too, because while we were wrasslin' with the British I looked around and there was the Richard goin' down with the colors flyin'."

It was getting wetter and wetter and we were in no mood for Eph's windy (Continued on Page 8)

A CAPPELLA CHOIR WILL SING HERE ON SUNDAY



The cappella chorus of Chesbrough Seminary, which is making its seventh annual Spring tour, which will appear in concert Sunday afternoon at 3 at Trucksville M. E. Church and Sunday night at 8 at Laketon High School (Story on Page 2).

Luzerne Protests State's Failure To Keep Promise

Want Main And Bennett Paved As Was Agreed; Seek Aid Of Governor

A flood of letters and telegrams charging that the State has broken its promise to Luzerne in failing to provide for reconstruction of Main and Bennett Streets, Luzerne, will reach the desk of Governor Arthur H. James at Harrisburg this morning.

At least 150 communications from Luzerne civic leaders, business men and interested persons on the West Side, as well as photographs emphasizing the deplorable condition of the two thoroughfares, were dispatched to the Governor yesterday.

Tonight (Friday) Luzerne Borough Civic Association, of which Attorney Henry Greenwald is chairman, will conduct a protest meeting at 8:30 in Luzerne fire hall to demand that the State Highway Department keep the promise it made last year to improve the two main streets of the borough.

A year ago, when Luzerne Council withdrew its opposition to the by-pass and joined the movement to secure that long-needed improvement, the State, borough and traction company agreed that if the by-pass were built Main and Bennett Streets would also be paved. The by-pass is now under construction and will be completed this summer. Plans for paving Main and Bennett Streets have been drawn and Luzerne councilmen have cleared away all legal obstacles but the State Highway Department has not given hopes for any immediate work on the two streets. Luzerne business and civic leaders charge the Commonwealth has "sold them down the river."

Local Leaders To Attend

Since it was largely because Luzerne withdrew its opposition that the by-pass became a reality, local civic groups are staunchly behind the Luzerne Civic Association in its demand and promised this week to do everything possible to support the drive to have Main and Bennett Streets paved.

Among those expected to attend tonight's protest meeting are officials of the State Highway Department, Senator Robert Miller and Senator Leo C. Mundy, Representative Don Wilkinson, representatives of Wyoming Valley Motor Club, Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce and West Side civic organizations.

A special invitation has been extended to the men in Dallas and vicinity who were instrumental in carrying the by-pass campaign to a successful conclusion. They worked closely with the Luzerne business men in the closing days of that movement and agreed at the time to return to the battle if the State Highway Department failed to keep its promise to pave Main and Bennett Streets, as well as the by-pass.

Racing Pigeon Club To Meet Next Monday

The Dallas Dairy Racing Pigeon Club will meet on Monday, April 3, at 7:30 at the Dallas Dairy office. All members are urged to attend and a special invitation is extended to new members who would like to join.

PSEA Plan Would Boost State Awards To Local Districts

Propose Shifting Tax Load From Real Estate To General State Funds

State aid to seven local school districts would be increased nearly \$90,000 annually and school taxes on real estate would be reduced drastically by a new method of distributing State subsidies recommended in a significant report published this week by a committee of the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

The 203-page report, which is the result of a study begun in 1937, was undertaken in an effort to find a solution to the financial distress which is handicapping many school districts and preventing attainment of the ideal of educational opportunity of reasonable equality to all children in the State.

If adopted as law, the proposals of the PSEA's committee would reduce materially the tax burden on local real estate, which now bears the major part of school costs.

The committee recommends that the Edmonds Act of 1921, which attempted to equalize State subsidies, be amended to increase the appropriations by adding 20 to the present percentage rate. Dallas and neighboring fourth-class districts now receive 50 per cent of teachers' salaries from the State. The committee would increase the appropriation to 70 per cent.

Tax Would Be Five Mills

A uniform tax levy on real property (5 mills is suggested by the committee) would be used to raise a share of the school costs. Where the appropriation and the 5-mill levy were sufficient to cover expenses, an "equalization" grant would be made to cover the difference.

As applied to the seven local fourth-class districts, the increase in State subsidies would amount to nearly \$90,000. Of that amount \$28,318 would be represented by increased teachers' appropriations and \$61,650 would be "equalization" grants. On the basis of the charts contained in the report Dallas Township would receive additional subsidies totalling \$13,553; Franklin Township, \$2,385; Jackson Township, \$3,820; Kingston Township, \$39,389; Lake Township, \$11,490; Lehman Township, \$7,750, these amounts being in addition to the appropriations now received under the Edmonds Act.

Dallas Borough had at the time of the survey 6.5 elementary teachers and seven secondary teachers. The total true value of property in 1936-37 in Dallas was \$933,000. Providing a school program equivalent in cost to \$1,600 for every elementary teacher and \$2,000 for every secondary teacher would cost \$24,400. A uniform tax levy of 5 mills, the figure recommended by the committee, on the true value of property in Dallas would produce \$4,665 toward the school program. Present aids, that is appropriations now received, would provide \$8,154 toward

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Utility Hints Demands May Bring Rate Increase

More Than 200 Communities In State Have Publicly-Owned Water Systems

(Special To The Post) Harrisburg, March 30—Two hundred nineteen towns and cities in Pennsylvania are operating municipally-owned water plants with varying degrees of success, according to the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs.

Generally, the record of publicly-owned plants has been good, a spokesman for the Association says.

The size of the municipal plants ranges from Wyalusing's which serves a population of 884, to Harrisburg's which serves more than 80,000 persons. A number of Pennsylvania's third-class cities have established their own water systems, including Reading, Altoona, Lancaster and Bethlehem. Smaller communities near Dallas which have publicly-owned plants include East Stroudsburg, Danville, Tamaqua, Laceyville and Meshoppen. The largest

municipal water plant in the state is the one operated by the City of Philadelphia.

The rates filed with the Public Utility Commission vary widely, some municipally-owned plants charging a flat quarterly rate, others charging for actual metered consumption. The rates are as low as 10 cents for the first thousand gallons. Dallas Water Co. has a basic consumption charge of \$1.50 for the first thousand gallons, according to its tariff on file at the P. U. C. office. A few of the 219 municipally owned plants have rates higher than that. One of the chief advantages of the municipally-owned plant, according to engineers here, is that it is exempt from many of the taxes which burden privately-owned utilities.

Request Protection In Case Of Merger

Paper Tie-up Prolonged As Conferences Drag

The request of the International Typographical Union that its printers be protected against any likelihood of a merger among any of Wilkes-Barre's three daily newspapers prolonged the city's six-month newspaper tie-up this week.

A strike called last October by the American Newspaper Guild ended officially last Thursday when Guildsmen signed an agreement with the publishers, but a new contract with the I. T. U. and the Pressmen's Union, who were not on strike but whose contracts expired, must be negotiated before the newspapers can publish. Conferences were held this week but both sides were silent concerning the progress made and no date for resumption of publication had been set by yesterday.

In the meantime, Judge E. Foster Heller ruled that an order restraining Mrs. Clara H. (Powell) Robertson, half owner of The Record, from transferring or disposing of capital assets of her deceased husband's estate be continued until she posts \$93,000 bond.

The order was requested by Elmer J. Willman, Times-Leader reporter, who sought the injunction as a potential heir of the estate of Joseph C. Powell, co-founder of The Record. Mr. Willman's petition was prompted by the rumors that The Record was to be sold or merged. Mrs. Robertson must file a bond of \$73,000 as life tenant of the estate and \$20,000 as executrix of the will, the court ruled.

Students Compete In Spelling Bee Tonight

Local students will match their wits against the best spellers of county grade schools tonight when they compete in the annual Luzerne County Scholastic spelling bee at Meyers High School auditorium, Wilkes-Barre.

The contest, sponsored by A. P. Cope, county superintendent, is open to seventh and eighth grade students. Nearly every school in the county is entered.

Harold Roberts and Jean Monk will represent Dallas Borough, Robert Patrick and Mary Rose Shields will compete for Dallas Township, and James Shepherd and Margaret Schwartz are Kingston Township entries.

EDITORIAL

We who stand to benefit so much from the construction of the Luzerne by-pass cannot escape our moral obligation to stand with the people of Luzerne in their demand for improvements to Main and Bennett Streets.

The failure of the State Highway Department to keep its promise to pave the main road through Luzerne is not the problem of that borough alone. It affects every motorist from this section who drives into Luzerne to shop or who uses Main and Bennett Streets as a shortcut to upper Kingston.

Without the aid of the Luzerne people, we might not yet have our by-pass. It was largely because of their willingness to co-operate that the State Highway Department agreed to build the by-pass. They helped us greatly. It is now our duty to help them.

When the long fight for the by-pass was concluded last year two promises were made. One came from the State Highway Department. It agreed to pave Main and Bennett Streets when it built the by-pass. The other promise came from the men from this section. In return for Luzerne's co-operation, the local committee promised to insist upon improvements to Main and Bennett Streets.

The promise of the State Highway Department has never been kept. Unless we want to go back on our word, too, it is our duty to do everything within our power to support the Luzerne Civic Association in its demands. There is no other honorable course.

Reply To Protests Fans Interest Here In Municipal Plant

Consumers Study Data On Experience In Towns With Own Water System

A lengthy brief filed with the Public Utility Commission at Harrisburg this week by Dallas Water Co., in answer to two complaints of inadequate service directed to the Commission by local consumers, intimates that a rate increase will follow any improvement program carried out here.

Frankly admitting the charge of faulty service to consumers in higher sections, the utility asks the Commission to consider a suggestion for a merger of Dallas and Shavertown companies and the issuance of additional securities to finance improvements.

Copies of the answer were received here by borough officials, who sponsored the formal complaint in response to agitation against frequent interruption of service to consumers in the Parrish Heights section of town.

The brief fanned interest in the movement to establish a municipally-owned water system here, a course of action which is being investigated by a committee which spent a busy day at Harrisburg on Monday collecting information which will be helpful in determining whether a publicly-owned plant is, as many consumers have come to believe, the only solution to the water problem.

Upon its return from the capital, where its members discussed the local situation thoroughly with a number of persons who have been involved in attempts to solve the problem, the committee issued the following statement:

"We hoped we could return with hopeful news. It would be pleasant to be able to report that we found some evidence that the tiresome problem of inadequate service is to be solved. Unfortunately, we could discover no evidence of any such prospects. The entire matter is complicated by wheels within wheels and it is obvious to us that the burden of finding a solution still rests with the consumers.

Public Ownership Recommended

"We did collect a considerable amount of material on publicly-owned water systems and, in accordance with our instructions, we are preparing that material for presentation to the consumers. We encountered not one bit of criticism of municipally-owned plants but, on the contrary, met interested persons who recommended that course highly. Since this committee had no authority nor desire to act on any phase of the situation, we stressed that we were merely an investigating group."

"We believe now that the committee should be enlarged so it will represent a greater cross-section of the community and so the study of the feasibility of establishing a municipally-owned water plant here can be carried out with all possible speed. We are also anxious to receive suggestions and to have any opinions from consumers which should be included in our files."

The committee had as members Henry Disque, Mrs. Joseph Schmeier and Howell E. Rees. Councilman James Franklin is also a member but was unable to make the Harrisburg trip.

The week's two developments—the receipt of the water company's answer to the complaints and the return of the committee from Harrisburg—heightened interest in the plans for a publicly-owned water system. Those plans are, of course, far from complete but several basic facts have been determined.

In the first place, the law provides action which would permit Dallas Borough to construct its own water system, independently of any existing system and without regard to any existing franchise.

Such a project could be financed in (Continued on Page 8)

HENRIETTA'S MONKEYSHINES ENLIVEN COURT HOUSE CASE

There were plenty of monkeyshines in Luzerne County Court House this week when Henrietta, a pert simian with a colorful past, became Exhibit A in a trial before Judge M. F. McDonald.

Last October "Henny" ran away from her owner, Anthony Krieger of Glen Lyon, and ranged the woods for several weeks until Michael Shon, a Honeyport storekeeper, found her and lured her to his home.

This week a jury had to decide whether Henrietta belongs to Krieger or Shon and Henrietta, in person, at-

tended the trial, the center of attraction in the court room. She was, that is, until she became temperamental and snapped at a spectator. Then Judge McDonald suggested that she be removed, and Henrietta spent the rest of the day disrupting the routine in the Court Clerk's office.

The jury decided in Krieger's favor but Shon wasn't too disappointed. Henrietta is expecting a "blessed event" in about six weeks and Shon thinks he may be able to get one of Henrietta's offspring.

K. T. H. S. SOPHOMORE WINS COUNTY ORATORY CONTEST

A Kingston Township High School sophomore won the Luzerne County Scholastic Oratorical Contest held at Forty Fort High School Friday night.

Richard Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jones of Shavertown, was awarded first prize with a speech on "Youth." The vote of the three judges was unanimous.

An annual affair sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forensic and Music League, the contest was open to all secondary students in the county. Rich-

ard will compete for the Northeastern District Championship at Myers High School, Wilkes-Barre, on April 15. High school orators from 11 counties will be represented. State finals will be held at Norristown April 29.

Richard, whose fine showing was partially due to the coaching of Miss Hilda Staub, English teacher at Kingston Township High School, received a bronze medal for his victory. Last year he received honorable mention in the contest.